



Howard County Commission on Disability Issues (CDI)  
George Howard Building, Columbia/Ellicott Meeting Rooms  
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD, 21043

## Meeting Minutes

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Monday, April 24, 2017  
6:30 to 8:30 PM

Present: Riffat Ashai  
Heidi Burghardt  
Cynthia Coburn  
Nicole Czarnecki  
Elliott Finkelstein  
Martin Jones  
Andrea Kolp  
Leslie Kornreich  
Doug Lea  
Bridget McCarthy  
Diane Mikulis  
Marian Vessels  
Karen Wood

Excused: Chelsea Stanton

Absent: Arthur Gold

Staff: Michelle Henry  
Erica Lewis  
Terry Zeigler

Interpreters: Alissa Enders  
Sandy Brown

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 6:35 pm/Welcome and introductions
- II. Approval of February 27, 2017 Minutes
  - Minutes approved as written
- III. New Business
  - a. Awards Program
    - Public Awareness Event

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- Theme to coincide with employment and National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) which takes place every October.
- Diane reported that she thought last year's event was nice in that all employer nominees were recognized with certificates – as the event took place during NDEAM.
- Discussion on venue – last year the event was held at Roger Carter Community Center which everyone agreed was nice. Light refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres were served.
- Doug – Motion to have the event held on October 5 at the Roger Carter Community Center – all in favor – passed unanimously. If for some reason RCCC is not available Bain will be the second choice.

b. Working Sessions

- With finalization of Strategic Plan, there was discussion about holding sub-committee (work group) meetings, in addition to regular bi-monthly meetings or increasing the number of annual meetings.
- Ande – motion – not to add additional annual meetings but to convene work group meetings that will meet fifteen minutes before bi-monthly scheduled meetings. All in favor – passed unanimously.
- Some concerns about insufficient time to accomplish some of the issues. Suggestion by Tony is to come to the first work group session prepared and everyone being in agreement with what needs to be discussed.
- Elliott suggested working on Action Steps that can be easily accomplished as well as items that need immediate results.
- Regarding the Strategic Plan, Diane commented on Goals 1 and 2 – Are there possible solutions that the committee is not aware of, and 2, solutions need data?
- It was mentioned that when gathering data for the number of residents in Howard County with disabilities, residents of institutions such as prisons and hospitals are not included in these statistics. It's difficult to have a full set of numbers for the overall assessment.

c. Howard Community College Accommodations

Discussion regarding an accessibility complaint that was raised by a former student, who requested assistance from CDI. This individual was invited to the April 24<sup>th</sup> CDI meeting to express her concerns, but there has been no response from her. ADA Office has provided the college with feedback and suggestions regarding accessibility. Discussion followed regarding accessibility issues at HCC.

d. Topics of interest for future meetings

- Invite Department Planning and Zoning to discuss future projects within Howard County.



- Invite Chad Edmondson along with the Police Department to discuss parking issues.
- Extend invitation to County Council to review existing regulations and possible new legislation regarding wider access aisles and larger parking places.
- Invite Charles Smith, Jeff Bronow, DPZ, Bob Marietta, HCC, Kathy McSweeney, HCC's Disability Services Coordinator

#### IV. Unfinished Business

##### a. Update –

Transition Symposium took place on March 18<sup>th</sup> with 105 attendees and 16 breakout sessions. Marian attended the event. Positive feedback received.

##### b. CDI Strategic Plan – Action Steps for Goal #1 “Gather information on the number of Howard County residents with disabilities and the types of disabilities.”

- Michelle will invite Charles Smith - Ph.D., Human Service Planner for DCRS, to the June CDI meeting and request his suggestions as to how the commission should move forward on some of the data issues.
  - Review commission's resources and networks to see what's available for gathering data that may be useful to use toward Strategic Plan.
  - Proposed wording for the two action steps under goal #1:
    - a. “Invite Howard County Government data analysts from DCRS and DPZ to June CDI meeting for sharing of disability-related statistical resources.”
    - b. “Examine affiliated networks for available data.”
- Motion to accept two Action Steps for Goal #1 as written – passed unanimously.

#### V. Announcements

- Provider committee will host Maryland's ABLE accounts presentation on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Maryland's ABLE accounts allow individuals with disabilities to save money and pay for qualified disability related expenses.
- 2017 CDI meeting schedule was distributed to all commissioners.

#### VI. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.